

Hopkinton/Webster Landfill Committee
Webster Town Hall
Webster, New Hampshire

November 5, 2015

Attendance: Rich Houston (H), Frank Davis (H), Sally Embley (W),
Steve Clough, Ex Officio

Absent: Mike Greenwood, Chair (W), Harold Janeway, Alt. (W), Arthur Cunningham (H)

The meeting was scheduled for 6:30 P.M. as usual and at 6:45 P.M. there were three members in attendance. Steve asked the Committee what they wanted to do. The members felt that since there was a full pressing agenda, and that the Committee had cancelled the last two meetings due to lack of participation (Ellen Kontinos-Cilley, and Ian Tewksbury, Alt. have resigned and not been replaced), that they should proceed with the meeting. The Committee further agreed that they should take votes in order to meet their obligation to the Boards within a reasonable time frame (in time for the 2016 budget cycle). Since there were only three members in attendance all votes at this meeting are to be subject to be brought up again for a re-vote at the request of absent members at future meetings. The issue of what constitutes a quorum should also be addressed at a future meeting.

Steve opened the Meeting at 6:50 P.M. and volunteered to take Minutes in Mike's absence. The Committee reviewed the August Minutes (the last meeting that was held). Rich made a motion to approve the Minutes as written, Sally seconded the motion, and the August 2015 Minutes were approved unanimously (3-0).

The off-hours activity reports for August, September, and October were provided. After some discussion the Committee decided that these reports were not useful or necessary because they only contained routine operational events. Sally inquired about the security system and Steve informed the Committee that any non-routine activity is investigated by reviewing the facilities' five cameras. Sally made a motion that the Committee no longer require off-hours activity reports, Rich seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously (3-0).

Steve gave a market and industry update. Recycling is under extreme pressure now primarily because the cost of disposing of single stream recycling now exceeds the cost of disposing of trash. The glass and plastic in SS recycling are contaminating the end products to the point that they have no value on the market and revenues are no longer defraying costs. The low cost of oil and the loss of foreign recycling markets are also depressing recycling values. Some towns are building transfer stations, some are expanding source separation, some are paying the increased costs, and some are limiting recycling due to the increased costs. Our program will be affected by lower recycling revenue but will remain profitable. There is a full presentation on this current situation on the NRRA website for anyone who wants more details.

The 2016 budgets were presented and reviewed. The transfer Station budget had minor changes but the 2016 bottom line is only up \$207 over the 2015 budget (potential salary increases are not included). The 2016 Solid Waste Budget is down \$11,500 from 2015 primarily because the renewed Groundwater Management Permit will be in effect and there will be lower monitoring and engineering expenses. Steve also noted that the 2015 report was mostly positive. Although there is still contamination at various test wells the overall levels were lower and there was no indication of any impending new issues. The proposed 2016 Community Water System Budget is down by \$2,169 primarily due to backup/on-call changes. Rick made a motion to recommend approving the three 2016 proposed budgets to the Boards of Selectmen, Frank seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (3-0).

Steve gave an update on the Swap Shop. The preparation of the site is taking longer than anticipated due to extensive renovation. The entire area is being reconfigured to provide better service with the existing disposal programs and to make the Swap Shop site more efficient and accessible. The container will hopefully be on site within the next month but there will be more development required.

Steve went over the requested policy and rate review requested by Boards. The Boards have reiterated their request. The Committee decided to take the requested vote on the septage lagoons. Rich made a motion that the Committee make a recommendation to the Boards that the Septage Lagoons should remain open, Sally seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous (3-0).

Steve went over the current rate structure history and then presented potential changes that would increase revenue. The Committee discussed changes and additions to septage, trash, brush/stumps, bulbs, bulky goods, and miscellaneous materials fees. The biggest potential revenue increases would involve charging for electronics and removing the 400 pound limit. There was a mixed view of the value of revising fees considering that these actions would surely invoke a negative reaction from the public. Some members questioned the impetus for unpopular fee increases at this time. The Committee decided to wait until a future meeting for more input before voting on any fee/revenue changes.

Sally brought up the issues in the paper regarding the Sanborton Swap Shop which evidently started when residents were allowed direct access to the town's metal pile. Steve responded that direct access to metal storage is not allowed at our station. The policy on swap shop items will not change at our facility from what we've been doing for years. The materials will just be in a more secure accessible setting. Steve also noted that although he had never heard of a town being sued over an accident resulting from a defective swap shop item that there was of course an element of risk involved. The facility has an extensive operational plan and all of the employees use their best judgement but any public facility has potential liabilities.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 P.M.

These Minutes were drafted by Steve Clough, Ex Officio

